

*NDC BRIEFING*

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LONDON ECONOMIST

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Khrushchev himself seems a most unlikely personality to remain at the top of the Soviet hierarchy for long. Ebullient and incautious in speech, meddlesome in action, and lacking the theoretical equipment that is the pride of every high-ranking Communist, he has also earned a deal of unpopularity in circles ranging from the peasants whom he once tried to force into "agro-towns" to the bureaucrats whom he is now exiling to the steppes. Moreover, it is unsafe to assume that Bulganin will serve him as a mere figurehead. The two men may well work together successfully for some time, as they have done in the past. But the point must be made that it is no mere clash of personalities that torments Soviet political life; it is a clash of factions and of rival hierarchies.

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Too early estimate Khrushchev No. 1  
power in Soviet. He still subject to Politburo  
which dominated by old Bolsheviks. Too new  
in job of Party Secretary to have built up,  
as Stalin did over the years, personal following  
in party jobs throughout Russia.

While Khrushchev may do most of talking,  
old Bolsheviks will do most of deciding (see  
comment London Economist).

*Any satisfied - not  
looking for Military Dictatorship*

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